(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) India produces adequate quantities of non-coking coals to meet the indigenous demands of power houses as well as industries. Production of coking coal in the country has also been incraasting over the years. However Integratsd Steel Plants import metallurgical grade low ash coking coal for bridging the gap between the indigenous availability and the demand and also for improving their overall blend for use in steel plants. Neither these imports nor the recent amendments to Coal Mines Nationalisation Act can be interpreted as indicative of failure of coal mines nationalisation.

(c) and (d) Individual proposals for coal mining by private parties will be examined on merits of each case, under the relevant legal provisions, including Coal Mines Nationalisation Act, 1973.

Status of mega projects in Tamil-Nadu

3558. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) What is the present/latest im plementation status of the following mega projects being undertaken in Tamil Nadu;

(A) Thermal Power Station Stage—II; and

(B) Mine I Expansion Project;

(b) The efforts made and the results thereof in facilitationg projects implementation and the total fund allocated and spent so far on the projects; and

(c) by when these projects are going to be completed 'and what are the reasons for the delay, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE Off THE MINISTRY OF COAL, (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) & (A) All the four units of 210 MW each of Second Thermal Power Station Stage II have been commissioned in March, 1991, December, 1991, Octo-bsr, 1992 and June, 1993 respectively.

(B) Mine I expansion project has been sanctioned in March, 1992 and ar.angements are being made to iinalise the tender documents for the mining equipment.

(b) and (c) All the four units of Second Thermal Power Station Stage II have since been commissioned. An amount of Rs 1219 crores have been spent upto 31st March, 1993. Fund ailoation for this project during the 8th Plan is Rs. 244 crores wnich is expected to meet the requirement of 'balance amount to be spent.

For facilitating the implementation of Mine I expansion project on an integrated basis with Thermal Power Station I expansion, discussions have been held with Financial Institution who have desired that mining project should be taken up for imple-mention only after the First Thermal Power Station expansion is sanctioned by the Government. Against a sanctioned cost of Rs. 1336.93 crores for Mine I expansion project, fund allocation during 8th Plan is Rs. 423 crores. An amount of Rs. 4.39 crores has been spent upto 31-3-93. First Mine Expansion is scheduled to achieve full capacity by 1997-98.

Opening of captive coal mines by private sector

3559. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state;

(a) whether his Ministry has recently issued a Notification allowing

private sector to open captive coal mines for setting up power plants; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER. OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OP COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 has been amended with effect from 9-6-93 to allow private sector participation in coal mining for captive consumption of Power, Iron and Steel and other end use as the Central Government, may, by notification, specify, besides allowing private sector participation in washing of coal.

CIL's agreements with Russian firms for purchase of spares

3560. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA;
SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:
SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER: SHRI IQBAL SINGH: SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Coal India Limited has entered into an agreement with Russian firms for the purchase of spares worth over rupees 40 crores while a number of Committees set up by CIL to study tho spares problems had recommended that with the collapse of the Soviet Union direct contact with the manufacturers should foe established discontinuing the practice to obtain the supply through traditional houses; and

(b) if so, what are the resons for not adhering to the recommendations made by the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) A delegation from Coal India Limited has recently signed nine contracts directly with five Russian Manufacturers of original equipment for purchase of spares required for the equipment, previously imported from former USSR, for a total value of US $ 5866109.70 FOB, which is equivalent to Rs. 18.78 crores. No Committee has been set up 'by CIL as indicated. A delegation of officers from CIL had visited former USSR Republics earlier, to ascertain the situation.

(b) Does not arise.

Charging of premium on coal

3561. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA; Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to tate:

(a) whether some recommendations allotments received from the sponsoring authorities/coordinating agencies like the Ministry of Industry. Central Electricity Authority etc, allotted coal to consumers from specified sources which included specified collieries carrying 10 per cent premium;

(b) if so, whether this was challenged in the High Court of Madhya Pradesh;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) what was the need for charging a premium over and above the earlier fixed price;

(e) whether authority in this regard was given to CIL by his Ministry, if so, whether any amendment in the law was made so that Coal India could fix the price; and

('f) what is the basis and criteria on which the CIL fixes the price and whether there is any check on such price fixation by CIL because it is after